

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-18 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 7-18 have been added. Claims 1, 2 and 6 presently stand rejected. Claims 3-5 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

The drawings filed May 4, 2001 are objected to by the Examiner; specifically, the Examiner has indicated that FIG. 1 should be designated with a legend such as --Prior Art--. In response, Applicant is submitting herewith one (1) sheet of replacement drawings which include FIG. 1. The replacement sheet is intended to replace FIG. 1 submitted on May 4, 2001.

Acknowledgement of receipt of the replacement drawing sheet is requested.

Prior Art Rejections

Claims 1 and 6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Taniguchi et al. (USP 6,091,698) and claim 2 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Taniguchi et al. in view of Takahashi (USP 6,195,315).

For the following reason, Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and requests favorable disposition of the rejected claims.

Applicant has amended independent claim 1 to include the novel features identified by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 1 has been amended to include the features of claim 3 identified on page 6 of the office action. Accordingly, independent claim 1, and all claims dependent therefrom, specifically claims 2-5, are believed to be patentable over the prior art of record. Withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 is kindly requested.

In regard to claim 6, Applicant has amended the claim to be in independent form and in accordance with its original presentation. Claim 6 is believed to be patentable over the prior art of record at least the following reason.

The Examiner asserts, at page 3 para.(g) of the office action, that Taniguchi teaches an optical pickup apparatus having “a one-chip laser diode which is formed with one electrode as a common electrode for the plurality of light emitting portions (FIG. 7)”. However, it is described in Taniguchi that “the laser couplers LC1 and LC2 are incorporated into the common photodiode IC1 (column 6, lines 7-8 and FIG. 7). Additionally, it is merely described that “a laser coupler is a type of a composite optical device” and that “the laser coupler includes a LOP (Laser On Photodiode) chip having a semiconductor laser 4 supported on a photodiode 3.” (column 3, lines 24-32, Figs. 2 and 3).

Stated in another way, the laser diodes 4 are mounted on the different photodiodes 3 (FIG. 7). Therefore, the laser diodes 4 do not have a common electrode and, accordingly, the light source 4 cannot be a one-chip laser diode having a common electrode for the laser diodes. The specific arrangements of the present invention are, thus, neither taught nor suggested by the cited references. Accordingly, claim 6 is patentable over the prior art of record and the rejection thereto should be withdrawn.

Patentability of New Claims

For additional claim coverage merited by the scope of the invention, Applicant has added new claims 7-18. Applicant submits that the prior art does not disclose, teach, or otherwise suggest the combination of features contained therein. For example, the prior art does not teach

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. No. 09/768,003

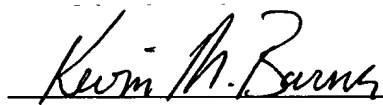
or suggest a photodetector comprising a pair of subbeam receiving sections and a plurality of four-division light receiving sections.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing remarks, the application is believed to be in form for immediate allowance with claims 1-18, and such action is hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, he is kindly requested to **contact the undersigned** at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: December 31, 2003

Attorney Docket No.: Q62765